

The Background of

IOWAccess

IOWAccess was established as the State of Iowa's official web portal nearly a decade ago. Since its inception in 1997, IOWAccess has been connecting Iowans with their government by harnessing the accessibility and technology of the Internet.

The financial support of IOWAccess applications through the IOWAccess revolving fund fosters agency partnerships; improves the availability, quality, use, and sharing of data; provides an incubator for innovative e-Government programs; and can be used to as an adjunct to federal, state, or local funding to improve the effectiveness of government programs that are consistent with the goals of IOWAccess.

The funding of IOWAccess projects is monitored by the IOWAccess Advisory Council. Project funding and other recommendations from this council are forwarded to the Director of the Department of Administrative Services, who, after a review, submits them to the Technology Governance Board for final approval when required. This advice and consent process ensures that IOWAccess expenditures are targeted at relevant electronic government services. All projects funded through IOWAccess are professionally planned and have clearly defined timelines, measurable results, and a defined return on investment.

IOWAccess Advisory Council
c/o Iowa Department of Administrative Services
Information Technology Enterprise
Hoover State Office Building, Level B
Des Moines, IA 50319-0001

IOWAccess

*The State of Iowa's
Official Web Portal*

What Citizens Should Know About the IOWAccess Advisory Council

Visit IOWAccess at
www.iowa.gov

The Challenge for Government at all Levels . . .

According to recent surveys, 82.1% of Iowans have access to the Internet. Research from the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices indicates that among the public's highest priority for improvements at the State and local levels of government are:

-  Improved access to governmental information and services. Most citizens expect more for less in their consumer and business purchases - they have similar expectations for government services.
-  More efficient use of governmental resources.
-  More direct contact with officials in all branches of government through e-mail and web sites.



The Council's Membership . . .

There are nineteen council members, including five persons representing the primary customers of IOWAccess; six persons representing lawful custodians, including one representative each from the legislative branch (not a member of the general assembly), the judicial branch, the executive branch, city government, county government, and the federal government; four members representing a cross section of the citizens of the state; and four members of the general assembly.



Some State Government Projects Funded through IOWAccess . . .

Since July 1, 2003 \$2.9 million in e-Government projects at the State level have been financially supported by the IOWAccess revolving fund, including: an interactive state budgeting website; license renewal systems for Teachers, Real Estate Agents, Professional Engineers, Accountants, Architects, Landscape Architects, and Social Gambling; electronic filing of income tax returns, sales taxes, and other excise taxes; support for the online Iowa Sex Offender Registry which recently became integrated with the U.S. Department of Justice's National Sex Offender Public Registry; e-Government constituent research; access to the public information contained in accident reports filed by the Iowa State Patrol; automation of government food inspection processes with public web access to the results; and tracking and reporting of data from political committees, lobbyists, and miscellaneous contributors having statutory reporting requirements; and



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Iowa Department of
Administrative Services

The Council's Duties . . .

Iowa Code Section 8A.221 establishes the IOWAccess Advisory Council within the Department of Administrative Services for the purpose of creating and providing a service to the citizens of this state that is the gateway for one-stop electronic access to government information and transactions, whether federal, state, or local.

The duties of the IOWAccess Advisory Council include:

- Recommending rates to be charged for value-added services performed through IOWAccess.
- Recommending the priority of projects associated with IOWAccess to the DAS Director.
- Recommending the expected outcomes of the use of IOWAccess and determining the manner in which such outcomes are to be measured and evaluated.
- Reviewing the IOWAccess budget request and ensuring that such request reflects the priorities and goals of IOWAccess as established by the Advisory Council.
- Review and recommend all rules to be adopted by DAS that are related to IOWAccess.
- Advocate for access to government information & services through IOWAccess for data privacy protection, information ethics, accuracy, and security in IOWAccess programs and services.

The Advisory Council also advocates for access to government and its public records and serves as a link between the users of public records, the lawful custodians of such public records, and the citizens of the state.
